



Date: March 12, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Becky Bucar, Assistant Public Works Director

Title: **Truckee River Watershed Council Funding Request for the 2024 State of Donner Lake Report**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: Authorize \$15,000 in funding towards Donner Lake monitoring for the 2024 State of Donner Lake report administered by the Truckee River Watershed Council.

Discussion: The Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS) was founded in 2020 to develop a coordinated and collaborative stewardship plan to protect and enhance the long-term ecological and economic health of Donner Lake. It includes representatives from a variety of local and state agencies, special districts, homeowners' associations, and community organizations with special interests in Donner Lake. Town staff has been participating in the partnership meetings as a Core Team member, as formalized in the 2022 project charter.

Part of the stewardship plan is the annual development of the State of Donner Lake report, an integrated data set of the ecological and community conditions at Donner Lake. The development of an annual State of Donner Lake report allows DIPS track of trends over time and to inform decision-making at the local and regional level. The Town contributes data to this annual report, such as Police calls for service, annual Aquatic Invasive Species certifications, transit ridership, and land development permit issuance. The Truckee River Watershed Council (acting as the DIPS facilitator/administrator) has worked with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Global Water Center to collect and analyze key physical, chemical, and biological data at the lake for a cost of \$30,000-\$40,000 a year. The DIPS Charter, past Stewardship Plans, and past State of Donner Lake reports may be found on TRWC's online library at <https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/library/>

The 2021 State of Donner Lake effort was primarily funded with \$15,000 from the Truckee Donner Land Trust and the remainder funded by TRWC. The 2022 report was funded by the Truckee Sanitary District (TSD), the Town, and TRWC. The 2023 report, for which the monitoring data has already been collected, is being funded with a Truckee River Fund grant, as well as funds from TSD and TRWC. However, it is not realistic to assume grant funds will continue to be available to fund this ongoing annual work and searching for and requesting different funding sources every year can create a significant amount of administrative work for TRWC. Therefore, TRWC is requesting continued and ongoing cost-share support from the Town in the amount of \$15,000 a year for the next three years. Data collection for the 2024 report is anticipated to start this spring.

Staff believes that this monitoring effort is in line with the purpose of CIP C2314 (Climate Partnerships), which is meant to "work in partnership with community partners to fund activities that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource conservation and restoration." In addition, the work aligns with the Truckee 2040 General Plan Goals LU-10: Donner Lake (Protect Donner Lake as a natural, scenic, and recreational resource and create a neighborhood center that serves residents and visitors) and COS-2: Truckee River and Donner Lake Protection (Preserve and enhance the Truckee River corridor and

Donner Lake and the exceptional natural, scenic, economic, biological, and recreational values they provide).

Staff recommends that Council authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 towards the 2024 monitoring effort using funding available in CIP C2314 for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Staff is recommending that the \$15,000 per year request for future years be evaluated as a part of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget process and notes that staff has also received a \$15,277 request from Clean Up the Lake for litter removal and education for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

Priority:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

Fiscal Impact: The Climate Partnerships CIP (CIP C2314) includes \$20,000 for “Donner Lake Stewardship” in Fiscal Year 23/24, which is adequate to fund the staff recommendation.

Public Communication: None beyond this staff report and conversations with the Truckee River Watershed Council staff.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Funding Request Letter from Truckee River Watershed Council.